

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4067

CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI, BANGKOK

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10747

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLATION OF PRIME MINISTER AND
CABINET

SUMMARY. M.R. SENI PROMOT, PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE, IN PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 20 OUTLINED PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLING PRIME
MINISTER AND CABINET IN OFFICE. PERTINENT SECTIONS OF STATEMENT
AND INTERVIEW AS TRANSLATED BY USIS, FOLLOW. END OF SUMMARY.

1. SENI: THE STATEMENTS I WILL MAKE NOW ARE ON FACTS AND
PROCEDURES IN DETAIL.

2. TODAY, ALL FOUR PARTIES AGREED UNANIMOUSLY FOR ME TO BE
APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER. THEREFORE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE GRANTED AN AUDIENCE BY HIS MAJESTY
THE KING TODAY (APRIL 20) AT 3:15 P.M. IN ORDER TO SUBMIT MY
NAME TO HIS MAJESTY FOR A ROYAL PROCLAMATION TO BE ISSUED
APPOINTING ME AS PRIME MINISTER. TOMORROW, I WILL CONTACT THE
BUREAU OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD WITH A PETITION TO BE GRANTED
AN AUDIENCE, IN ORDER THAT I MAY MYSELF SUBMIT THE LIST OF NAMES
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OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET TO HIS MAJESTY FOR CONSIDERATION

AND APPROVAL, SO THAT A ROYAL PROCLAMATION CAN BE ISSUED APPOINTING THEM.

3. THE NEXT STEP IN PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED WILL BE TO PETITION FOR AN AUDIENCE TO BE GRANTED FOR ME TO PRESENT THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET TO HIS MAJESTY, AT WHICH THEY WILL TAKE AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BEFORE THEY TAKE OVER THEIR DUTIES. I HOPE THAT AUDIENCE WILL BE GRANTED NEXT THURSDAY (APRIL 22).

4. ON FRIDAY WE WILL HOLD A MEETING TO START DRAFTING THE STATEMENT OF POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH SHOULD BE FINISHED ON SUNDAY. ON MONDAY, THE STATEMENT OF POLICY WILL BE SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN ORDER FOR COPIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MP'S, THUS GIVING THEM THREE DAYS TO STUDY IT BEFORE A MEETING OF PARLIAMENT IS HELD IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL ASK FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

5. REPORTER: TO WHAT EXTENT HAS JOINT CONSIDERATION BEEN PAID TO THE DRAFTING OF THE STATEMENT OF POLICY?

SENI: NO CONSIDERATION AT ALL HAS BEEN PAID TO IT YET. ONLY A VERY SHORT MEETING WAS HELD TODAY. THE DRAFTING OF THE STATEMENT OF POLICY MUST BE DISCUSSED AND CONSIDERED AT A CABINET MEETING ATTENDED BY ALL MINISTERS.

6. REPORTER: WHEN WILL YOU TAKE OVER YOUR DUTIES?

SENI: AFTER BEING GRANTED AUDIENCE AND TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND BEING SWORN IN, OFFICE CAN BE TAKEN THE SAME DAY, AS SPECIFIED IN THE CONSTITUTION. BUT POLICY CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A STATEMENT OF POLICY TO AND OBTAINED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM PARLIAMENT.

7. REPORTER: WHEN WILL YOU TAKE OVER OFFICE?

SENI: IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRADITIONAL PROCEDURES, OFFICE SHOULD BE TAKEN AFTER THE ISSUE OF A ROYAL PROCLAMATION APPOINTING ME TO THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER.

8. REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE LIST OF NAMES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMBERS OF THE CABINET WILL BE ANNOUNCED TODAY?

SENI: NOT YET. NEITHER WILL IT BE TOMORROW. IT WILL MOST PROBABLY HAVE TO BE ON THURSDAY. THE CABINET MUST BE GRANTED AUDIENCE FIRST. I HOPE THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAN BE ISSUED ON THE EVENING OF THE SAME DAY.

9. REPORTER: A ROYAL PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED APPOINTING THE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE LAST NIGHT. WILL A ROYAL PROCLAMATION BE ISSUED APPOINTING YOU PRIME MINISTER TODAY?

SENI: IF HIS MAJESTY APPROVES MY BEING APPOINTED TO THAT POSITION, THEN A ROYAL PROCLAMATION WILL BE ISSUED.

10. REPORTER: HOW MANY PERSONS DO YOU PLAN TO BE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS IN THE LIST OF NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET YOU WILL SUBMIT TO HIS MAJESTY FOR ROYAL APPROVAL?

SENI: I CANNOT DISCLOSE ANYTHING YET.

11. REPORTER: WHEN WILL YOU BE READY TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF POLICY IN PARLIAMENT?

SENI: I EXPECT THAT IT WILL BE MOST PROBABLY NEXT WEEK, ON THURSDAY NEXT WEEK. I HOPE THAT ALL PROCEDURES WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.

12. REPORTER: DO YOU EXPECT THAT YOU WILL MAKE A STATEMENT OF POLICY TO PARLIAMENT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 29?

SENI: THAT IS WHAT I EXPECT.

13. REPORTER: THE DAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKES A STATEMENT OF POLICY TO PARLIAMENT, TO WHAT EXTENT WILL IT GIVE THE OPPOSITION THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO IT?

SENI: THAT DEPENDS ON THE SPEAKER.

14. REPORTER: SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS A LARGE MAJORITY, TO WHAT EXTENT WILL IT GIVE THE OPPOSITION THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO IT?

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SENI: I HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT THAT IS UP TO THE SPEAKER. WE WILL GIVE FULL OPPORTUNITIES. THERE WILL BE NO DICTATORSHIP IN PARLIAMENT. (THE END).
WHITEHOUSE

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